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October 30: The United States sanitary inspector at Santiago reports that during the two weeks ended October 30 there were in that city 4 deaths from yellow fever.

Sanitary report from Santiago.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *October 30, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that there were 71 deaths in Santiago de Cuba during the week ending October 30. Of these, 4 were from yellow fever, 5 from dysentery, 6 from tuberculosis, 2 from pernicious fever, 4 from remittent fever, 15 from enteritis, 2 from typhomalaria, and the rest from noncontagious diseases. Many deaths are attributed to dropsy and anæmia, and I believe they are owing to hunger. It is impossible to calculate the number of people living on public charity to-day, and as there is no work for the *concentrados*, disease and death carry them off by hundreds.

Respectfully,

H. S. CAMINERO, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAITI.

Yellow fever at Cape Haytien.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of a telegram from the United States minister at Port au Prince, Haiti, of the 6th instant, reading as follows: "Yellow fever, Cape Haytien."

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

JAMAICA.

Yellow fever in Kingston.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, *October 12, 1897.*

SIR: Upon the day Mr. Scanlon died, and before I had taken to my bed in the afternoon, I received very alarming information relative to the spread of the yellow fever. I immediately called upon the agent of the Atlas Line, whose steamer *Altai* was leaving that day, and requested him not to carry passengers to New York, advising him that the Boston Fruit Company had stopped taking passengers, and I thought it well to entirely stop the passenger traffic between Jamaica and the United States. He declined, however, acceding to my request. During the course of this conversation he very indiscreetly showed to me a bill of health which he had secured for his vessel from the secretary of the local central board of health, for the purpose, I suppose, of in some degree offsetting the bill of health which I gave him. This bill of the local board stated unqualifiedly that there were no infectious or contagious diseases in this port. I inclose a blank form of the same, which was simply filled up as it stands without any notation at all. The

quarantine officers may best judge of the character and purpose of such bills by comparing them with the bills I issue. I inclose a copy of the notation which I placed on the bill of health issued by me to the *Altai*. The contrast is certainly startling. I have been satisfied for some time that the vessels sailing from here are endeavoring to avoid a knowledge being had of the true state of facts. I have, therefore, some time since instructed my agents to require the production of every bill of health which a steamer had, and to attach the bills together in such manner that no one of them might be suppressed. The quarantine officers may absolutely rely upon the statements in my bill of health. They are authenticated facts, and the figures are below, rather than above true ones. As before advised their reliability may best be judged by the fact that the governor sent to his acting superintending medical officer for statistics of the disease, advising him that he could probably get fuller and better ones from me than any one else.

My activity in investigating the conditions here has produced several results.

First. In wide public and private discussion and criticism of my course, the most of it not complimentary to myself, but that, of course, does not affect my conception of the duties required of me, nor my judgment as to the course I should pursue.

Second. In a better conception among the people of the dangers of the situation, and a corresponding murmur upon their part as to the absolute inefficiency of the local board of health. That board has seemed to pay no attention to the disease at all. No steps were taken to quarantine cases or localities, and the disease has been left entirely to be coped with by the private practitioners. In the case of Mr. Scanlon himself, no inquiry was made about it, and nothing was done by the local board of health with regard to the preparations for his interment, or the disinfection or fumigation of the house, which was left entirely to the physician, who fortunately is a very capable and careful man. Their action in issuing clean bills of health I have already noticed. I have formally protested to the government here against their action.

Third. In the conclusion on the part of the Government here to provide an experienced commissioner of health and to undertake proper sanitary precautions by isolation, etc., and as already advised, to procure a law requiring practitioners to report cases of infectious and contagious diseases.

Fourth. In bringing the shipping interest of the island to the understanding that my hand is not to be stayed except by reciprocal action on their part. I am informed to-day that already steamship companies are now refusing to take passengers. If this be true, it would seem that the Atlas Line agent has concluded to take my advice with reference to all future steamers.

Fifth. In taking up the public discussion of this question through the press of this island and the press of the United States. Since the very beginning of this disease the press has been under promise to the Government here to refrain from discussing the subject and to make no mention of the facts. The Government organ here, upon the 7th, was the first to break this contract. They have apparently realized the criminality and the disadvantage of suppressing these facts when known to me, and the result was an editorial * * * accompanied by a statistical article, the figures for which were taken from my bill of health. * * *

Since Scanlon's death, while confined to my bed, I have endeavored to keep in touch with the situation. I have learned of some 5 cases and 3 deaths, with the additional statement of 3 other cases not authentic, and the very startling statement that there are 19 cases at Port Royal among the naval officers and artillery men. I am, of course, being confined to the house, unable to verify these facts. I have not yet received any reply from the military authorities as to the cases under their jurisdiction or from the medical officer at Port Royal. I, on yesterday, addressed a personal note to the governor, asking him to direct a reply to be sent to me from these sources, and stating that if the information was not furnished I should be compelled to proceed with the best information within my reach and declare the disease epidemic. * * * My own information is that the city of Kingston and vicinity is on the verge, if not already in the throes, of an epidemic, and I should not be surprised if compelled to use the cable in the usual course within a day or two.

The island of Barbados has quarantined Jamaica, and all Royal Mail steamships have stopped taking passengers to the Windward Islands.

If I should not use the cable before the receipt of this dispatch, I desire to know by cable whether I may threaten steamships here with quarantine at New York should they carry passengers.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LOUIS A. DENT,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

BILL OF HEALTH.

PORT OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

I hereby certify that the ———, commanded by ———, is about to sail from this port of Kingston, Jamaica, bound for ——— with a crew of ——— men, captain included, and ——— passengers.

I further certify that at the time of granting this document no plague nor any other contagious or infectious disease prevails in this port or its vicinity.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Kingston, this ——— day of ——— 189—

Secretary Central Board of Health.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

Copy of note placed upon bill of health given to the steamship Altai, leaving Kingston the 6th of October, 1897, for New York.

"During the past eight weeks there have been 8 cases and 4 deaths of yellow fever officially reported in public institutions in the Island. My investigations show 42 cases and 17 deaths in Kingston; 4 cases and 3 deaths in Port Antonio; 3 cases and 1 death in Manchester. The next week will determine whether the fever is epidemic or not."

JAPAN.

Sanitary report from Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA, October 12, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith my regular report of infectious diseases in Japan for period October 1 to October 10, inclusive.